

Montana's Economy – By the Numbers!

Today, Montana is on the move...our aggressive economic development efforts have moved Montana into the forefront of economic activity in the nation. Consider the following facts, as of June 17, 2010:

Business Facilities magazine 2009 State Rankings show Montana with the following rankings:

- Overall business climate – 8th.
- Best overall tax climate for business – 6th.
- Best sales tax climate for business – 3rd.
- Quality of life – 8th.
- Cost of Labor (includes productivity) – 6th
- Most educated workforce – 4th.

Forbes magazine rates Montana as the “fastest climber” as Most Business Friendly State in the nation, going from 42nd to 24th to 13th!

US Department of Commerce and US Chamber of Commerce (and Kauffman Foundation) rate Montana as the #1 state for entrepreneurship and overall business start-up activity

Business Facilities magazine 2009 – Montana as runner-up for Economic Development State of the Year

Trade & Industry Development Magazine – Corporate Investment & Community Impact Award for both 2009 and 2010

Montana's economic statistics are strong:

- Montana is one of the fastest growing economies in America (8th) over the last 3 years
- Montana has the 11th lowest unemployment rate in the nation (7.1% which is 2.8% below the National average – 9.9% federally)
- Montana's taxation rankings from the Tax Foundation are good
 - Montana ranks 6th best on list of tax-friendly states (state business tax climate rankings)
 - Montana is the 8th best in combined state and local tax burden
 - Montana is the 3rd best in sales taxes for business
 - Montana is the 10th best in property tax index
- Montana has had significant increases in various forms of energy production
 - Montana is the fastest growing state in nation in oil production (only other state growing is North Dakota)
 - First new coal mine in 29 years – Signal Peak (\$475 M Investment – 235 good jobs)
 - #1 in wind power growth among states with at least 250MW – from 1 MW to 386MW (from 50th to 18th)
 - Montana has had more new electrical generation capacity since 1/1/05 than the previous 20 years combined
- Montana had record job growth of people working at record high wages
 - 60,000 jobs created between 1-1-05 and 10-28-08
 - Job creation has restarted in 4 of last 5 months – 1572 added
- Montana is one of only 2 states operating “in the black” (other is North Dakota)

*Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, Time Magazine

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